

Appl. No. 10/716,471  
Response dated August 17, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of July 3, 2006

NIT-308-03

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

**Election/Restrictions**

Applicants hereby elect Group II, including claims 31-38 directed to a system having a storage system that is owned by an owner and rented to a user, as defined by the Examiner. Claims 21-30 and 39-43 are withdrawn.

**Priority**

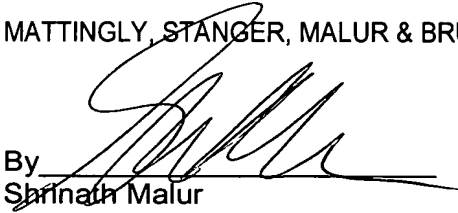
Applicants request the acknowledgment of the claim for priority. The priority document (JP 2001-117611, filed April 17, 2001) was filed in the parent application, serial no. 09/987,815, November 16, 2001, and is referred to in the Official Filing Receipt dated January 6, 2004.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

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